

**Profile of
Project Success
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
2021 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Program Award Recipient**

Highlights from nomination materials:

- Founded in 1979, Project Success assists hundreds of diverse students at UW Oshkosh (UWO) each year and is one of the few university programs in the country to specialize in the use of phonics-based multisensory methodology to improve reading, spelling, and writing skills. It also provides developmental mathematics instruction and tutoring for students with unique learning disabilities who wish to take university mathematics.
- Under the leadership of Director Jayme Reichenberger, staff provide these key areas of support: best-practice, remedial student support for program participants; recruitment and enrollment initiatives; retention and graduation efforts; and promoting inclusivity and awareness to both the campus and Fox Valley communities.
- The program's higher educational approach emphasizes the ability to write long essays, comprehend textbooks, and use proper spelling and grammar, an expectation challenging for many students but even more challenging for students who struggle specifically with language-based learning, the most common being dyslexia.
- Individuals with learning disabilities can be considered a historically underrepresented population within four-year institutions; the National Center for Learning Disabilities indicates that students with learning disabilities enter four-year institutions at half the rate of their nondisabled peers. The services that Project Success offers within the UWO campuses increases enrollment for this specific population of students and directly aids in their persistence and success.
- Program staff maintain a commitment to encouraging academic success through the evidence-based individualized support that program participants receive, informed by best-practice strategies specific to individuals with learning disabilities.
- Staff members work diligently each year to oversee exam and note-taking academic accommodations for program participants, which directly support students, staff, and faculty within the UWO campuses and the efforts of the UWO Accessibility Center and the Office of Equal Opportunity, Equity, and Affirmative Action. Overseeing these accommodations requires consistent and effective communication, collaboration, and an in-depth understanding of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- In 2019-20 alone, 221 unique students used at least one exam accommodation through Project Success in 283 distinct courses. Additionally, in 2019-20, approximately 225 unique UWO instructors taught a course in which at least one exam accommodation was requested. In total, staff proctored 1,756 exams, each one requiring careful planning and coordination. Staff received note-taker requests from 143 students in 217 distinct courses; each request requiring documented reasonable effort to coordinate and execute in a timely manner.
- In 2020, Project Success collaborated with the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to provide a workshop that focused on ways to support students during online instruction. The Supporting Students' Learning workshop provided UWO staff and faculty with information outlining program support services, ways to connect students to Project Success, and tools and strategies that instructors can utilize to better support program students in an online environment.

In the words of a colleague:

- "While the pandemic has been challenging for all, I particularly appreciate the way Project Success responded and altered its operation. The vulnerable student population served by Project Success made it even more important they received uninterrupted services and we transitioned to a virtual university. I thank the staff for being nimble and creative."—*John Koker, Provost, UW Oshkosh*
- "The mission of Project Success clearly aligns with the mission of UW Oshkosh, which is to prepare all students to become successful leaders in an increasingly diverse and global society."
—*Linda Haling, Dean, College of Education and Human Services, UW Oshkosh*